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 Cuba

Your Excellency,

The group of wounded prisoners who returned from Cuba on 14 April last, belonging to Assault Brigade No. 2506 which landed on Girón Beach on 17 April 1961 with the intention of liberating our country from Communist tyranny, noted with profound concern your statement, on the eve of your recent visit to Cuba, that you were guided, amongst other things, by a determination to ensure respect for the "sovereignty" of Cuba.

We know that for you, as for all free men in the world, sovereignty is rooted in the people and that consequently it is only respected and protected if the people are allowed to exercise it through modern democratic procedures. In Cuba, as recent events have made even more clear, sovereign power resides in a foreign Government and is exercised through a group of Cubans who are traitors to their fatherland.

Had you wished, Sir, to extend the mission entrusted to you to other fields, there were two in particular which Cuban public opinion and that of the free world would have viewed with the greatest ~~satisfaction~~ sympathy. One is that of the security and political independence of the other Latin American countries, so gravely threatened by the continued and intense subversive activity carried on by international Communism through Cuban agents. In this connexion, permit us to remind you, very respectfully, of the pronouncements of the Eighth Consultative Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held at Punta del Este, in Uruguay, in January of this year, on which occasion

the present Government of Cuba was excluded from all participation in the Inter-American System.

The other sphere to which we refer is that of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the promotion of which appears ~~exclusively~~ ^{exclusively} in the United Nations' Charter as one of the primary functions of the Organization. We feel sure that the Secretary-General is well aware of the extent to which the most essential human rights and freedoms have been violated in our country by the Communist regime in power. Our respect for the high office which you fill impels us to ~~import~~ ^{express} to you our concern at the absolute silence you maintain in your statements, regarding this other question which is vital both for our people and also for the prestige of the Organization you represented during your visit to Cuba. In this latter respect, we wish to draw your attention in particular to the deplorable and frequently inhuman conditions of the political detainees and prisoners of war in Cuba. The regime which is at present in power in our country has not only repeatedly and flagrantly violated the Geneva Agreements of 1949, to which it is a party, but has, furthermore, constantly rejected the repeated ~~gestures~~ ^{efforts} of the International Committee of the Red Cross, ~~designed~~ to ensure the humane treatment stipulated in these Agreements.

As members of Assault Brigade 2506, we should like lastly to draw your attention to the clear act of arbitrariness committed at the trial to which we were subjected in April of this year. Amongst these acts we may mention that of conducting the trial behind closed

doors, the provision of a single defence lawyer for the 1,173 prisoners, the coercion used against the accused by members of the Militia and of the Rebel Army, and lastly, the notorious injustice of the sentences and of the subsequent valuation made of each of the condemned for the negotiation of his release.

For the sake of the security of our companions who are still in prison and for fear of the reprisals which may be made against them, we would ask you not to reveal the identity of the signatories of this communication, which we are sending to you privately.

We wish to repeat, Your Excellency, the expression of our highest consideration and esteem.

For Assault Brigade 2506

(Sgd)

Noelio Montero Díaz

Commander of Battalion No.3
At the request of the group
of wounded men.

Miami, November 7, 1962

His Excellency U Thant
Acting Secretary-General of the
United Nations
New York.